

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 14-21 are pending, with claim 14 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication on page 7 of the Office Action that claims 14-15 and 19-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. In this Reply, Applicant has rewritten claim 14 as an independent claim, including the limitations of claims 12 and 13. Also, claims 16 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 14. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 14-21 are allowable. Furthermore, in view of the cancellation of claims 1-13, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in clear condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejections

Without acquiescing to the grounds of rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Applicant has canceled claims 1-13 without prejudice or disclaimer and has amended claims 16 and 17 to depend from allowable claim 14. Therefore, the grounds of rejection have been rendered moot.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments presented herein, which do not raise new issues that require further consideration and search, and instead place the application in clear condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

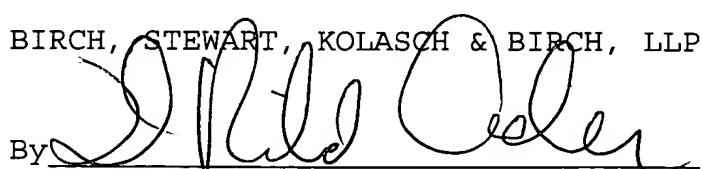
Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$110.00 in payment of the extension of time fee is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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